



The Office Action dated March 3, 2005 has been carefully considered along with the cited references. In view of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

The application was filed with claims 1-6. The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action questioned the use of "means plus function" elements and the phrase "the desired flow rate" in claims 1 and 6. In response, applicant has amended the claims to address these indefinite issues identified by the Office Action.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Otten et al. (US Patent 5,139,044). Applicant submits that the claimed invention, which has been clarified by the amendments to the claims, is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Otten. In accordance with the invention as recited in the claims, the actually operating pressure and actual flow rate of liquid applied to the shower header are measured, and the actual operating pressure is used to determine a calculated flow rate. The actual flow rate and the calculated flow rate are then compared. If the difference between the actual and calculated flow rates exceeds a threshold, a feedback signal is generated for causing the spraying system to change an operating condition, such as initiating a cleaning operation or sounding an alarm. This approach as recited in the amended claims is not taught or suggested by Otten. According, the claims should be allowable over Otten.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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